

English, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Ojibway

Education

Terminology

Glossary

Angela Shisheesh, Anastasia Weesk, and Jim Hollander (editors)



Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre

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ISBN: 1-897322-06-2

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Foreward

A major challenge faced by the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) communities is the exposure of these communities to new ideas, activities, and terminology. Since many NAN communities use Aboriginal languages as their working language, Native language teachers have to invent words for new English terms. Without standard terminology for these new terms there has been some fragmentation in language development.

In the NAN area, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Ojibway language teachers expressed concerns about their lack of knowledge and understanding of education words used in their schools and communities. In addition, they expressed concerns about not having these words or terms in their respective languages.

Consequently, this project was undertaken to update and standardize the use of education terminology across the NAN territory, to support the evolution of Aboriginal languages as a vital part of the NAN communities, and to develop an education terminology glossary of English, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Ojibway terms for use by Aboriginal language teachers.

This project involved the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre hosting three workshops for interpreters/translators and community members who speak these languages. These workshops were held in Timmins on September 18–20, 2007 for the Cree participants, in Sioux Lookout on November 5–9, 2007 for the Oji-Cree participants, and in Balmertown on December 3–7, 2007 for the Ojibway participants.

The completion of this project should ensure the following:

- (a) a reduction in communication problems between Aboriginal language speakers caused by the introduction of terminology for new English words,
- (b) an improvement in the speed and accuracy of translations and interpretation,
- (c) an increase in the use of Aboriginal terms for English words,

(d) a more receptive environment for the involvement of Aboriginal people in issues related to local governance, resource development, education, justice, social development, and other related issues, and (e) an increase in the number of younger people involved in community activities.

This education terminology glossary provides technical education words explained in simple language and translated in Cree, Oji-Cree, and Ojibway for Native language teachers and other people interested in using these words in their own language. It is anticipated that more of these workshops will be made available in the future.

Acknowledgements

The editors (Angela Shisheesh, Anastasia Weesk, and Jim Hollander) would like to thank the following people who participated in the Education Words Terminology Workshop for developing the **Cree** translations of the education terms contained in this glossary.

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Nancy Carpenter, Timmins
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In addition, the editors would like to thank the following people who participated in the Education Words Terminology Workshop for developing the **Oji-Cree** translations of the education terms contained in this glossary.

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Furthermore, the editors would like to thank the following people who participated in the Education Words Terminology Workshop for developing the **Ojibway** translations of the education terms contained in this glossary.

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Also, we would like to thank Vicky Angees for transcribing and proof reading the Oji-Cree and Ojibway words.

Finally, the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre would like to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Government of Ontario, and the Ontario Ministry of Education for sponsoring the Education Words Terminology Workshop Project and for the production of this glossary. The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives \$100 million annually from Ontario's charity casino initiative.



Organization

This document is organized alphabetically by content area in English with the Cree translation listed first (1), the Oji-Cree translation listed second (2), and the Ojibway translation listed third (3). In addition, an English definition is provided in simple language beside each term and translation. Many of these English definitions were obtained from the following Ontario Ministry of Education documents:

- Ministry of Education. (2006). *The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1–8: Language (Revised)*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education. (2005). *Education for All*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education. (2005). *The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1–8: Mathematics (Revised)*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education. (2004). *The Ontario Curriculum: Social Studies, Grades 1 to 6, History and Geography, Grades 7 and 8 (Revised)*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education. (2001). *The Ontario Curriculum: Grades 1–8: Native Languages*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education. (2000). *Standards for School Boards’ Special Education Plans*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education and Training. (1998). *The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1–8: The Arts*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education and Training. (1998). *The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1–8: Health and Physical Education*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education and Training. (1998). *The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1–8: Science and Technology*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education and Training. (1997). *The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1–8: Language*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Ministry of Education and Training. (1993). *Antiracism and Ethnocultural Equity in School Boards*. Toronto: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.

The editors wish to thank the Ministry of Education for the use of these documents.

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ISBN: 1-897322-06-2

Produced by the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre, Timmins, ON